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RUHBABA/CG III MEF CAMP COURTNEY JA
RUHBABA/CG THIRD FSSG CAMP KINSER JA
RUHBABA/CG THIRD MARDIV
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/COMFLEACT OKINAWA JA
RHMFIUU/COMMARCBASESJAPAN CAMP BUTLER JA
RHMFIUU/COMMARFORPAC
RHMFIUU/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA
RHHMHAA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
RHOVVKG/COMSEVENTHFLT
RUHBVMA/CTF 76
RUYLBAH/DODSPECREP OKINAWA JA
RUESDJ/FBIS OKINAWA JA
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0270
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 0897
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/NAVCRIMINVSERVRA OKINAWA JA
RUHBANB/OKINAWA AREA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CAMP BUTLER JA
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0346
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 0305
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0090
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 0044
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0838
RHMFISS/USARPAC COMMAND CENTER FT SHAFTER HI
RUALBCC/YOKOTA AB HQ USFJ

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SUBJECT: OKINAWA MAYORS FINALLY REALIZE BASE REALIGNMENT IS REAL

(SBU) Some good news from Okinawa. Consul General had drinks September 26 with two key Okinawa Mayors, Gibu of Kin Town (Camp Hansen) and Miyagi of Kadena Town (Kadena Air Base). They both were very excited about the recent visit to Okinawa of Guam Governor Felix Camacho. They stressed that Governor Camacho's visit, combined with the visit to Guam several weeks ago by most of the base-hosting mayors from the central area of Okinawa, had galvanized the Okinawa mayors. In short, they now finally realize that the U.S. is serious about the realignment plan in Okinawa, and that the return of most of the base land south of Kadena is real. Until the visit, most had been thinking the realignment plan for consolidation/return of facilities was "just another plan" much like what they have seen many times in the past thirty years -- a nice idea but not something to actually bank on as a mayor planning for the city's future.

(SBU) Mayor Miyagi noted that with their visit to Guam, and following discussions with Governor Camacho at a dinner September 14 at the Consul General's residence attended by six of the central area mayors, the mayors have changed their view. They now understand that Guam fully welcomes the move of 8,000 Marines from Okinawa, and that the USG is moving forward with its own planning and funding for developing necessary facilities in Guam. They also now realize that consolidation is just a few years away, so they must plan now to deal with issues such as changes to their tax base with the loss of base land rents, employment issues, land use planning, and transition subsidies from Tokyo. The central mayors' association now is beginning to

do so.

(SBU) Mayor Miyagi told the Consul General the atmosphere has changed dramatically with Governor Camacho's visit to Okinawa. Consul General has been telling people here repeatedly of course that we are serious about the major consolidation/return of land, as part of the overall realignment package, conditioned on the successful move of MCAS Futenma to the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF) and the successful move of 8,000 Marines to Guam.

But hearing directly from Governor Camacho and seeing with their own eyes what is happening in Guam seems to have brought it home to them. This is a good thing. Mayor Miyagi also noted this is greatly increasing pressure on Okinawa Governor Nakaima to cooperate with Tokyo on the FRF Environmental Impact Assessment, since they all understand that the consolidation/return of land and the move to Guam will not take place without the successful move of MCAS Futenma to FRF.

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